

SITUATION REPORT NO. 02
INCIDENT NO. 97-001 (Continuation of 96-01)
DATE: February 28, 1997 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flood -Devils Lake.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from 1996 reports.
3. DAMAGE: The level of Devils Lake reached 1,437.85 feet MSL on February 28.

The National Weather Service "Spring Snowmelt Flood Outlook," issued February 28, indicates Devils Lake could peak at 1,440.5 feet MSL, one-half foot shy of its 1830 record level of 1,441 feet MSL. The National Weather Service bases this prediction on the present snow cover and the assumption normal precipitation will fall over the Devils Lake Basin.

Snow depth/water equivalent measurements, taken January 13 and 14 by the N.D. State Water Commission, showed an average of 10 inches of snow with a water content of 2.6 inches over the Devils Lake Basin. As a comparison, the average moisture content on January 17, 1996, was 2.1 inches. Recent measurements indicated there is considerably more snow in the ditches, stream channels and tree rows. Frost depths of six to 12 inches of range are much lower than normal.

A report by the Ramsey County Emergency Manager indicates that up to 60 Ramsey County homes shoreline could become inundated if Devils Lake rises to 1,441 feet MSL. The result would be \$5 million damages. Up to 40 Benson County shoreline homes could also become flooded, with damages totaling \$1.2 million.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A State Flood Coordination Center meeting was held in Devils Lake, February 13, 1997. Following is a summary of information reported during that meeting.

N.D. State Water Commission (SWC)

Applications continue to be accepted for the Available Storage Acreage Program (ASAP). Twelve applications, received since January 1, are being evaluated; those found feasible will be used to store spring runoff. The Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board is hosting meetings throughout the region and has sent another letter to basin landowners, encouraging their participation in ASAP.

N.D. Insurance Department

The N.D. Insurance Department consumer hotline has received calls about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as a result of FEMA's efforts to promote the program. Callers are being directed to insurance agents if they live in a county participating in NFIP. Those callers whose counties are not participating in NFIP are being directed to their county commissioners.

N.D. Parks and Recreation Department

Plans are on schedule to move the bait shop at Grahams Island State Park in March. The N.D. Parks and Recreation Department will relocate the shop from its present elevation of 1,438.5 feet to 1,454 feet MSL.

N.D. Game and Fish Department

Bob Froelich, N.D. Game and Fish Department fisheries development coordinator, reviewed plans to upgrade Devils Lake facilities during a meeting on February 18 with Lake Region Anglers Association. Those plans call for elevating the East Bay boating access site to 1,443 feet MSL, and the Six Mile and Black Tiger Bay access sites to 1,442 feet MSL. The Lake Region Anglers Association discussed its fund raising plans.

The Game and Fish Department plans to work with the anglers association and a local township to improve the turnaround and parking area at Creel Bay.

Lake Region Health Unit

State lawmakers are reviewing a bill designed to give the state power to remove man-made structures from water ways. An amendment stipulates that fences would not have to be removed. Removal costs may be assessed against the property owner. Presently, nine mobile homes, three garages or storage buildings and six houses are in the lake.

N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT)

Design work on grade raises planned for N.D. Highway 57 are nearing completion, but a delay in securing a commitment of federal funds may postpone the March bid letting to a later date.

The Devils Lake District Office plans to reinstall barrier walls on N.D. Highway 57 at the Narrows and perform necessary rip-rap repairs on N.D. Highways 20 and 57.

The District Office has also been performing maintenance work on electronic sign boards used to alert motorists to road conditions around Devils Lake.

The N.D. DOT will continue announcing road conditions on the Highway Advisory Radio System (HARS) this spring when lake conditions dictate the need for road reports. Reports are broadcast on 530 on the AM radio band.

Staff at N.D. DOT District Office and the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are completing details on the Devils Lake dike construction so that construction permits can be issued.

Plans for a grade raise on N.D. Highway 1 at Stump Lake are nearing completion, but N.D. DOT is waiting to proceed with the project until it receives a clear indication of the 1997 spring runoff's impact on the road.

A structural contractor has completed work on the bridge beam placement and rip-rap work for the N.D. Highway 19, Six Mile Bay, bridge construction project. Much of the dirt for the grade raise is in place as is much of the rip-rap. The project has been suspended until spring. N.D. DOT officials expect the project to be completed by July.

Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce

Members of the Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce stress the importance of maintaining road access around the lake to allow for commerce and emergency travel. They are also concerned that interagency cooperation takes place to maintain lake access. The fishing industry has a multi-million dollar impact on the region and must be kept viable. Other concerns include the impact of flooding on businesses and farm land and measures taken to mitigate those losses.

City of Devils Lake

City engineering staff members are still working on land acquisitions necessary for improvements to the city's lake level protection, which is being increased to 1,445 feet MSL.

Benson County Emergency Management

Benson County officials are still looking for a source for the local share of a \$1.9 million project to elevate Grahams Island State Park's only entrance road. If the road closes because of flooding and wave action, island residents would lose access and 60 percent of the 100-plus lake camp sites would be affected.

Ramsey County Emergency Management

The Ramsey County Emergency Manager conducted a meeting on February 14 with representatives of the N.D. DOT, USACE, City of Devils Lake and Ramsey County Rural Utility System. The group discussed how homes, utilities and traffic would be impacted by flooding.

St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

USACE officials report that a contractor has completed 50 percent of Stage One of a project to elevate lake level protection for the city of Devils Lake to 1,445 feet MSL. Rip-rap still is being delivered to the construction site, and the Creel Bay pumping station has been completed.

USACE will advertise for the Stage Two of the project in March and will award the bid in late April.

Members of the N.D. National Guard stationed at Camp Grafton are performing maintenance work on USACE pumps. The USACE is working to secure more sandbags.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be held March 20, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room. State Flood Coordination Center meetings are currently scheduled every month.

Signed _____
Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director